

RES22-257 Testimony

MISC. COMM. 87

ZONING (ZON)

ZONING (ZON) Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 1, 2023 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 0

Name: lynne matusow	Email: lynnehi@aol.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Feb 26, 2023 @ 02:25 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am opposed to this. Triple the amount of time. This is crazy. If the Surfside Condo collapse in Florida taught us anything, it is we need upgraded codes and inspections. Many died. We cannot have that happen here due to the lame excuse that city workers can't do the work on time. I live in a high rise condo in Honolulu. I am on the board. We are upgrading our mechanical systems, fire systems, hot water systems, etc. Too often we are told that the codes are being updated and once done we will have to follow the new code. The experts know what is coming. Waiting six years is way too long. Two is already creating problems. Please defer this resolution and make life safer for us by doing so.</p>		
Name: Stefanie Sakamoto	Email: ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: BIA Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2023 @ 01:29 PM
Name: Greg Thielen	Email: greg@ccs-hawaii.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2023 @ 04:50 PM
Name: DARYL TAKAMIYA	Email: DTAKAMIYA@CASTLECOOKE.COM	Zip: 96813
Representing: BIA HAWAII	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2023 @ 08:19 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>BIA Hawaii is in strong support of this resolution. Written testimony was submitted.</p>		
Name: Howard Wiig	Email: howard.c.wiig@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii State Energy Office	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Feb 28, 2023 @ 04:02 PM



Honolulu City Council
530 S King St.
Honolulu Hale, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
February 27, 2023

RE: Bill 56; Resolution 22-257

Dear Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kanekawaiola "Max" Lindsey, 2023 Special Appointee on the Board of Directors of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) and Chairman of the Government Relations Committee. Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

We are writing in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 56 and Resolution 22-257. Oahu's building industry and the economy continue to suffer due to extremely long permit processing times.

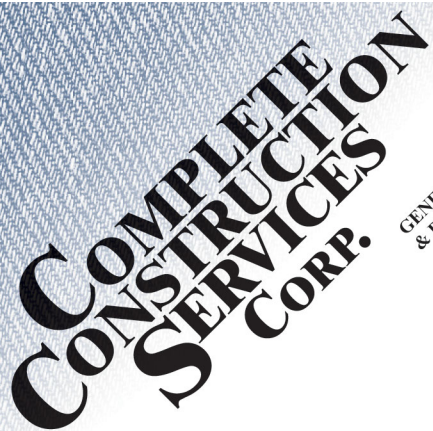
Bill 56 will help alleviate this issue by reducing the number of projects that must go through the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP). Furthermore it will allow minor modifications to existing permitted projects without triggering a requirement for another permit.

Resolution 22-257 would encourage the State Legislature to allow the Counties additional time to process building code change. It is important to provide relief on the pace of code change for both the regulated and the regulators; neither is able to keep up with updates to 7 different building codes every three years. The resulting confusion and unintended consequences of this pace of change requires extensive training for industry and DPP and slows the review of plans and projects for code compliance.

We support efforts to increase housing availability and affordability at all price points and we appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.

Mahalo,

Kanekawaiola "Max" Lindsey
2023 BIA Hawaii Special Appointee Director
2023 Chairman, Government Relations Committee



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Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning
City Council Chamber
Wednesday March 1, 2023
9:00 AM

RE: Bill 56 Relating to Permits Required

Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and members of the committee,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Resolution 22-257 Relating to Building Codes. In order to understand the need for this important resolution it is necessary to provide a quick overview of the code writing and adoption process.

Codes begin as "Model Codes" created by independent Non-Government Organizations (NGO's). Altogether three NGO's write the 7 Model Codes that are adopted at the State and Local level in Hawaii. 4 of these codes are written by the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC follows a 3-year cycle for updating codes. Keep in mind two important points; 1) 3-years is an arbitrary time frame selected by an NGO and 2) The ICC makes a lot of money selling code books.

Once a Model Code is completed it is reviewed and amended for local conditions by the State Building Code Council (SBCC). Once the SBCC adopts a code it is then up to each County to adopt the State version of the model code as is or with amendments within 2 years. What this means in practical terms is that currently the ICC is working on 2024 codes, The SBCC is working on the 2021 codes, the counties are working on the 2018 codes and we are building under the 2012 codes. To attempt to keep this straight carries some obvious complexities.

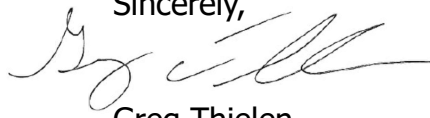
This current structure is a problem for both the regulators and the regulated. As soon as a government agency is finished with a code they must take two distinct actions at once. First, they must train their staff on the newly adopted code and second, already begin reviewing it's replacement. While this is not the only cause of our permitting woes, it certainly isn't helping. From the design and building community side there is a great deal of confusion on how to build appropriately. For example we are still building under 2012 codes, but projects in for permitting won't be issued until the 2018 code is adopted. Also if someone designs

State projects and County projects they are always on different codes.

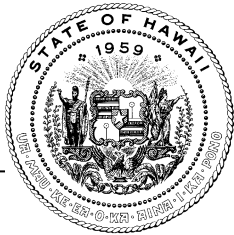
To see that this pace is unsustainable one only has to look at the City and County of Honolulu's pace of adoption. The City has been unable to adopt any ICC code within the two year mandated period thus far. This makes matters more confusing as it creates an interim code while the City catches up. By opening this time window up it allows the County much greater flexibility and those that design and build much greater predictability.

For these reasons I humbly ask for your support of Resolution 22-257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Thielen', written in a cursive style.

Greg Thielen
President/RME



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
ZONING COMMITTEE, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Wednesday, March 1, 2023
9:00 AM
City Council Chamber and Videoconference

In Opposition of
RESOLUTION 22-257

URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND CHAPTER 107 OF THE HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) opposes the current language contained in Resolution 22-257, which extends the time to amend and adopt the Hawai'i state building codes from two years to six years, but provides an alternative approach and suggests language to address what we understand to be the underlying concern that prompted the drafting of this bill.

The change proposed by the bill in its current form could seriously compromise Hawai'i's ability to provide safe, healthy and economical homes and buildings and set back Hawai'i's goal of a decarbonized economy. Hawai'i Revised Statutes 107-24 states that "the adoption of a code or standard shall be within two years of the official publication date of the code or standard." The intent of HRS 107-24 is to synchronize Hawai'i's code adoption cycle with the national cycle which updates codes every three years. National codes are updated based on lessons learned from disasters and failure analyses, as well as advances in technologies.¹ Delaying Hawai'i's adoption of current building codes will reduce the rate at which better designs and technologies are included in Hawai'i's

¹ National Institute of Building Sciences. Benefits and Challenges of a Timely Code Adoption Cycle.
<https://www.caba.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/IS-2018-92.pdf>

Hawai'i State Energy Office

RESOLUTION 22-257 – URGING THE HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND
CHAPTER 107 OF THE HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES – OPPOSE

Page 2

buildings. The importance of timely adoption of building codes and standards is why the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses timely code adoption as a criterion in its funding for disaster mitigation, resilience and recovery projects.

HSEO recommends that section 107-28 (a) Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) remain unchanged, and that section 107-28 (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, be amended to read as follows:

(b) If a county does not amend the Hawaii state building codes within the two-year time frame, the Hawaii state building codes shall become applicable as an interim county building code until superseded by the adoption of an amended version of the code by the county pursuant to this subsection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.